Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENNA 00198 111821Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /033 W
----------119235 120242Z /75
R 111719Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4661
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 00198

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, AU
SUBJECT: FAA CERTIFICATION OF AUSTRIAN AIRLINES REPAIR
FACILITY

1. SUMMARY. THE PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIAN AIRLINES (AUA), THE NATIONAL CARRIER, HAS ASKED THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING RECERTIFICATION AS AN FAA REPAIR STATION. AUA LOST THIS STATUS IN AN FAA CUTBACK LAST OCTOBER. ON BASIS BROADER US INTERESTS DISCUSSED BELOW, AS WELL AS AUA'S WILLINGNESS TO COVER CERTAIN INSPECTION COSTS, EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS AUA REQUEST AND URGES PROMPT FAA RECERTIFICATION. END SUMMARY.

2. FOR FOUR YEARS AUA'S FACILITIES AT VIENNA'S SCHWECHAT AIRPORT HAVE BEEN AUSTRIA'S ONLY FAA CERTIFIED REPAIR STATION. THIS YEAR AUA'S REQUEST FOR RECERTIFICATION WAS TURNED DOWN ON GROUNDS THAT WORK PERFORMED AT THE STATION ON US-REGISTERED AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN INSUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH "NEED" FOR THE FACILITY UNDER FA REG. 145.71. CERTIFICATION EXPIRED ON OCTOBER 19, AND DENIAL WAS RECONFIRMED IN A LETTER FROM FAA'S FRANKFURT OFFICE ON DEC. 11. THE EMBASSY WAS AWARE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENNA 00198 111821Z

THAT AUA WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING RECERTIFICATIO EARLY IN THE FALL AND HAD ADVISED FAA REPS THAT AUA WOULD REACT STRONGLY TO DENIAL. AUA DID NOT, HOWEVER, FORMALLY REQUEST EMBASSY ASSISTANCE UNTIL THE YEAR'S END WHEN OTHER EFFORTS HAD FAILED.

3. WHILE IT IS CLEAR THAT AUA'S WORK ON US-REGISTERED

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

AIRCRAFT WAS MINIMAL LAST YEAR (18-1/2 HOURS), WE
DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS SHOULD BE THE DECIDING FACTOR
IN AN ACTION WHICH ALSO COULD AFFECT US COMMERCIAL
INTERESTS, THE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF AIR TRAFFIC
SAFETY, AND SOME BROADER ASPECTS OF US-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS.
MORE SPECIFICALLY:
A) AUA (WITH AN ENTIRE FLEET OF DC-9S) IS A GOOD
AND IMPORTANT CUSTOMER. US PROCUREMENT SINCE 1971
HAS BEEN IN THE $200-300 MILLION RANGE AND FUTURE
PURCHASES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. BECAUSE THE CARRIER
HAS ENJOYED SUCCESS, WE DO NOT CONSIDER AN EQUIPMENT
CHANGE LIKELY, BUT THERE HAS BEEN STRONG PRESSURE FROM
THE AIR BUS. OF PROBABLY EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE IS
AUA'S ROLE AS A MODEL AND SOURCE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
AND SUPPORT FOR US AIRCRAFT SALES IN EASTERN EUROPE.
MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS IS PUSHING SUCH SALES AND IS EXPANDING
ITS USE OF AUA (WHICH ENJOYS GREAT RESPECT IN EASTERN
EUROPE) FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE LOSS
OF AUA CERTIFICATION WITH MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS OFFICERS
AND THEIR VIEWS ARE STRONG. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF
BOTH ITS OWN ALL-AMERICAN FLEET AND ITS ROLE AND
POTENTIAL IN FACILITATING SALES AND PROVIDING HIGH
QUALITY SERVICE TO AMERICAN AIRCRAFT IN EASTERN EUROPE,
FAA CERTIFICATION IS IMPORTANT.
B) ALTHOUGH AUA HAS SERVICED FEW US-REGISTERED
AIRCRAFT, THE COMPANY DOES SERVICE A NUMBER OF US-MADE
CONFIDENTIAL

AIRCRAFT REGISTERED IN OTHER COUNTRIES. FAA CERTIFI-
CATION, THEREFORE, IS A QUESTION OF SOME ECONOMIC
IMPORTANCE, AS WELL AS PRESTIGE, TO AUA. IT ALSO IS
IMPORTANT TO THE OWNERS OF US-MADE AIRCRAFT WHO USE
AUA'S SERVICES. WHILE WE SUSPECT THAT AUA WOULD CONTINUE
TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS IN ITS REPAIR OPERATION
WITHOUT CERTIFICATION (I.E. THE FAA NOTED IN ITS LETTER
THAT DENIAL DOES NOT REFLECT ON THE CAPABILITY OF
EITHER AUA SERVICES OR PERSONNEL), THE CERTIFICATION
PROCESS HAS PROVIDED A TARGET AND CONTROL WHICH
UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTE TO HIGH STANDARDS OF AIR SAFETY.
SINCE AUA WILL CONTINUE TO SERVICE US (AND OTHER) AIR-
CRAFT REGISTERED ELSEWHERE, CERTIFICATION COULD HELP
MAINTAIN HIGH US STANDARDS.
C) AS A GOVERNMENT-OWNED AIRLINE, AUA EXERTS CON-
SIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON GOA TRANSPORT POLICY. IN THE
PAST THEY HAVE BEEN COOPERATIVE AND USEFUL TO THE
EMBASSY. NATURALLY, WE ARE ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN THAT
RELATIONSHIP, PARTICULARLY SINCE WE WILL SOON BE
FACING SOME RATHER DIFF CULT CIVAIR ISSUES.

4. AUA IS FULLY AWARE OF THE FAA'S REASON FOR REFUSING

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

RECERTIFICATION AND, IN A COMMUNICATION TO THE EMBASSY, HAS OFFERED TO PROVIDE "TICKETS AND TO COMPENSATE FOR ANY EXTRA EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH AN ANNUAL VISIT OF THE FAA INSPECTION". WE HAVE NOT PROBED THIS, BUT BELIEVE THAT THE COMPANY WOULD BE REASONABLE IN ARRIVING AT A FIGURE THAT WOULD COVER THE ADDED COSTS OF THE VIENNA INSPECTION.

5. FOR THE REASONS ABOVE THE EMBASSY URGES A PROMPT REVIEW AND RECERTIFICATIFICATION OF AUA'S VIENNA FACILITY.
WOLF

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VIENNA00198
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780017-0508
Format: TEL
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780174/aaaackmx.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 583e8be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3790885
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAA CERTIFICATION OF AUSTRIAN AIRLINES REPAIR FACILITY
TAGS: EAIR, AU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/583e8be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014